

ARIZONA ADDRESS
CONFIDENTIALITY
PROGRAM
SFY 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

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<https://azsos.gov/services/acp>

AZ ACP

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OVERVIEW

ACP SFY 2021 | 02



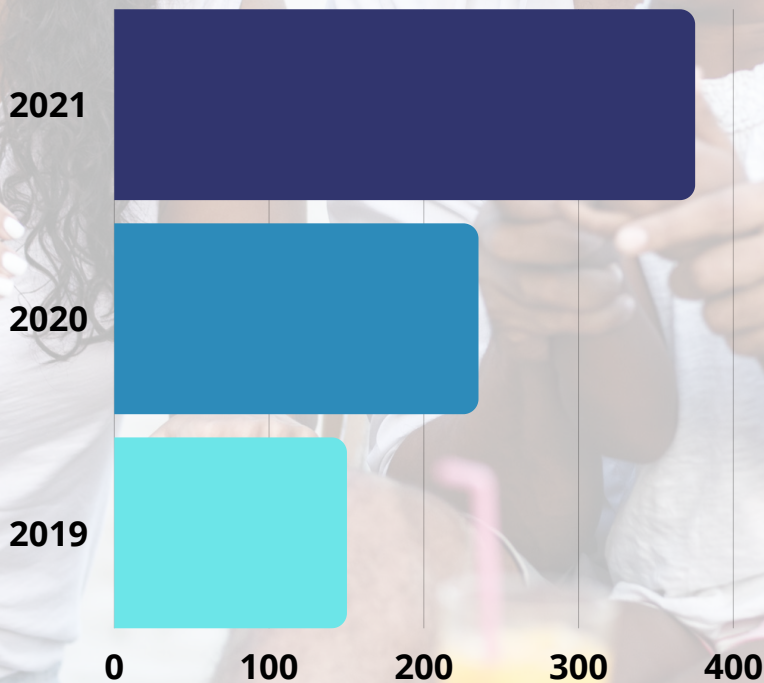
The Arizona Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) is managed by the Arizona Department of State: Secretary of State's Office. Arizona was the 27th state to create a confidential address program. On June 4, 2012, the program began assisting individuals and families impacted by domestic violence, sexual offenses, and stalking. The laws governing the program are located in ARS Title 41, Chapter 1, Article 3.

Participants certified into the ACP are assigned a substitute address that can legally be used for all of their interactions with state and local government agencies. The assigned address allows the participant to go about their daily life without disclosing their actual (confidential) home, work, or school address. All state and local government entities in the state of Arizona must accept the assigned substitute address as a participant's actual address per AZ statute, A.R.S. 41-166.

The ACP receives participants' mail, forwards their First-Class Mail to them, and assists participants with their interactions with third parties should problems arise when providing their substitute address and authorization card. ACP Team members also works with third party stakeholders, such as county offices, utility companies, banks, and schools, to ensure legal compliance and to make sure their business practices accommodate the safety needs of ACP participants.

CONTINUED...

ACP Protect Registered Voters by SFY



In addition, the Address Confidentiality Program:

- Provides notice in certain family court cases.
- Provides ACP participants a secure method to register to vote.
- Provides ACP participants the ability to have property records sealed.
- Process legal and legitimate disclosure requests.
- Participants' legal agent for first class, certified, and register mail; and service of process
- Determines school district boundary eligibility
- Transfers student records on behalf of participants.

In SFYs 2020 and 2021, one of the ACP's primary focus was to increase the number of participants who had registered to vote through the statutorily defined ACP protected process. By June 30, 2021 participants who had re-registered/registered to vote as an ACP Protected Voter increased by nearly 60% from the end of SFY 2020. From the end of SFY 2019, ACP Protected Voters had increased more than 150%.

STATISTICS



Since the program's inception, more than 4,000 different participants have received services, and the program continues to grow annually. In fact, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited the ability for people to relocate – a necessary action for applicants to be eligible to apply to the ACP and for the program to be truly effective – the program continued to experience an overall net growth, as it has every year since its inception. However that rate of growth was at a lower percentage. Between the years of 2013-2020, the average yearly net growth of program participants was 15 - 25%. The overall net growth for state fiscal year 2021 was 7%.

7%

OVERALL NET GROWTH

In program participants for state fiscal year 2021, down more than half due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. However in SFYs 2013 - 2020, overall growth was 15 - 25%.

2,072

PARTICIPANTS & APPLICANTS SERVED

in state fiscal year 2021

785

PARTICIPANT HOUSEHOLDS

At the end on SFY 2021. With each household having an average of 3 participants total.

APPLICATION ASSISTANTS

62

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

had agreements with ACP and employ advocates who are registered application assistants who support survivors enrollment into the ACP.

288

APPLICATION ASSISTANTS

registered with the ACP at the end on SFY 2021. Are employees of community-based organizations and safety plan with applicants to the ACP.

115

APPLICATION ASSISTANTS ATTENDED INITIAL TRAINING OR CONTINUED EDUCATION

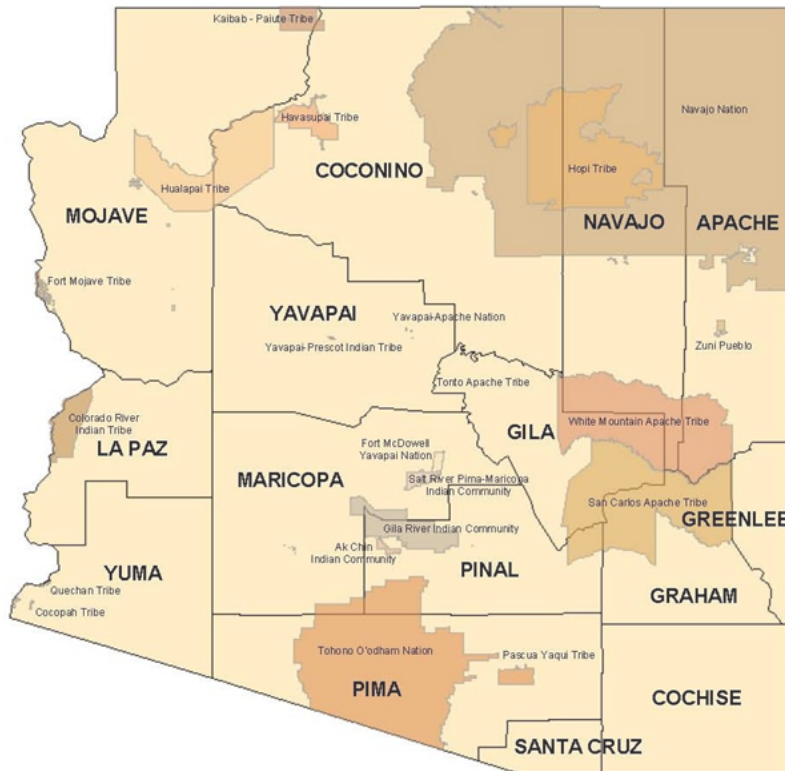
provided by the ACP from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, virtually.

The ACP has a successful private sector–government agency partnership that utilizes limited state resources to recruit, train, and monitor application assistants. Application assistants are victim advocates who are employed by community-based organizations throughout Arizona. As of June 30, 2021 the ACP had agreements with 62 different community-based organizations and 288 individual registered application assistants. In SFY 2021, the Secretary of State's Office - Address Confidentiality Program provided training to 109 victim advocates in Arizona so they could meet with eligible survivors to safety plan and apply to the program. Of the 109, 70 registered as an application assistant with the ACP.

The role of application assistants is vital to Arizona, survivors, and the ACP. The ACP Application Assistants meet one-on-one with potential applicants (survivors) to discuss their situation and help them determine whether applying to the ACP is an appropriate safe step for them to take. During this process, the application assistant helps the survivor/applicant understand the program basics, works with the applicant on an individualized safety plan, and guides the application process, answering questions along the way.

To ensure application assistants are available throughout the state, the ACP provides initial trainings to advocates several times a year both in person and now virtually. Continuing education is provided on an as-needed basis to provide education to application assistants about legislative changes to the program and advanced level safety planning, to train advocates about the unique safety needs of ACP participants, and to hone their application skills. The ACP provided continuing education to 45 advocates in 2021. Beyond this training and ongoing support, the community-based organizations and individual staff are not compensated by the ACP.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



Twelve (12) out of fifteen (15) counties in Arizona, are served by at least one Application Assistant, in-person. All 15 counties are served via the virtual application meeting process. (as of June 30, 2021).

This map shows the geographical coverage of counties and tribal governments served by community-based organizations where application assistants were able to assist victims with the application process as of June 30, 2021.

Comprehensive state coverage has continued during this year. With the development of virtual application assistant trainings and the implementation of a virtual meeting process for those application assistants trained for and with the capacity to carry out this virtual application meeting process, every county was able to be served by at least one partnering community-based organization.

12 OUT OF 15

AZ COUNTIES ARE SERVED IN PERSON BY AN APPLICATION ASSISTANT

The ACP's current Goal is to have in-person coverage in every county and tribal community in Arizona by the end of SFY 2023.



Tohono Indian Women led the Tucson 2019 Women's March with her son by her side.

DEMOGRAPHICS

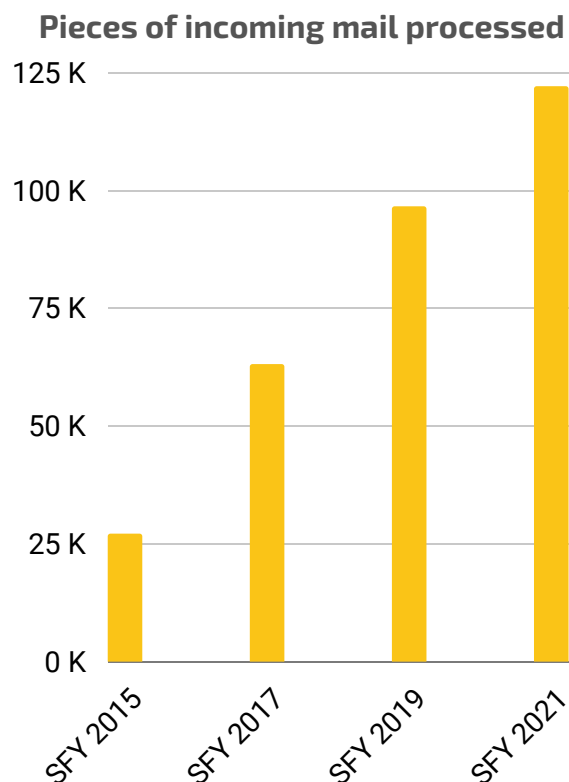
The majority of ACP participants are children who were enrolled simultaneously with one of their parents. Most frequently, that parent was their mother. It is not uncommon for an adult female to enroll with several children. A participant household with a singular adult female is also quite common. The demographic breakdown has remained fairly consistent since the first enrolled household in June 2012.

REASONS FOR ENROLLMENT

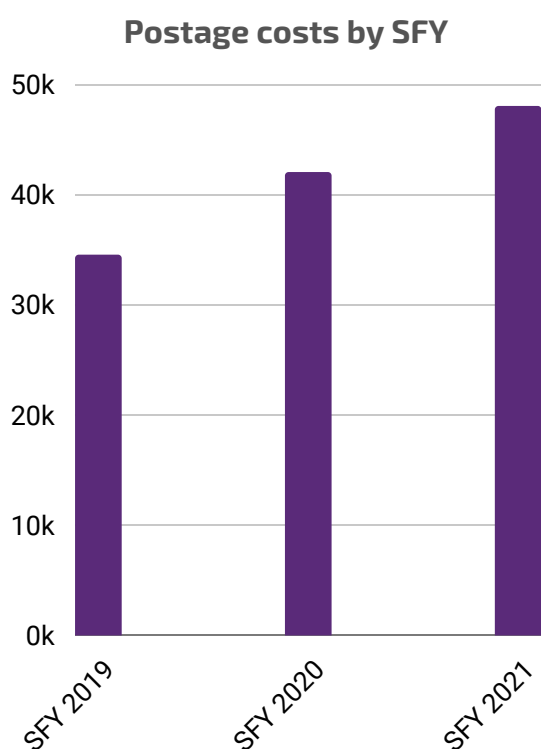
An applicant, the survivor, discusses the specifics of their safety concerns with an ACP Application Assistant who they also disclose the reason for their enrollment to. The victimization type is identified on the application by the application assistant, as required by statute. On the application form the application assistant selects one or more types of victimization they feel warrant the applicant's need for participation in the ACP. Enrollment types are domestic violence, sexual offenses, or stalking. Here is the victimization data for SFY 2021. Consistently, domestic violence is the number one reason for enrollment in the ACP – over 56% of applicants each year indicated domestic violence was the reason or one of the reasons for enrolling.



MAIL & POSTAGE COSTS



As the legal agent to receive mail for all program participants, the Secretary of State's Office- Address Confidentiality Program sorts and processes all participant mail. The office is required to forward to participants their properly addressed First-Class Mail, registered and certified mail, and service of process. The program may forward clearly marked pharmaceuticals. Other mail is either refused at the post office, returned to sender, or in cases of bulk advertisement or junk mail, shredded or recycled (donated to programs serving domestic violence and sexual offence survivors throughout the state).



In state fiscal year 2021, the ACP processed approximately 121,949 pieces of incoming mail, including mail sent directly to program participants, PEVL ballots and voting materials to participants. Each year, the mail volume as well as the program's postage expenses continue to climb. This chart shows yearly postage costs from SFY 2019 - 2021.



Questions about this report can be directed to:

The Secretary of State's Office
Address Confidentiality Program

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